

OCT -9 '22

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" THE MAN AND THE MOMENT "

By Elinor Glyn

To prevent each being forced into marriage with someone else, and also that Sabine might inherit her father's money in accordance with the terms of his will, Sabine Dalberg and Michael Aranstoun are married. It is only the second time they have met and it is agreed that, after the ceremony in the chapel of Aranstoun castle, each shall go ~~thmx~~ separate ways.

At their wedding supper, intoxicated by the champagne and Sabine's beauty and charm, Michael forgets their pact and crushes her in his arms. When Michael awakes in the morning Sabine has gone, and for five years his searching is futile.

Sabine, concealing her identity under the name of Mrs. Howard, goes to Italy and visits her old school friend, Moravia Clowdwater. There her baby is born and dies. Sometime later she meets Moravia's friend, Henry Fordyce, a British Member of Parliament. Though much older, he is a close friend of ~~Mxm~~ Sabine's husband, but as not even Moravia knows the name of the man Sabine so strangely wed, Henry does not know that the girl he so deeply loves is the wife Michael is longing for.

Though Sabine does not love Henry as she loves Michael, she betroths herself to him and starts divorce proceedings after reading in a newspaper of Michael's engagement to another. Michael and Sabine have an unexpected meeting when Henry brings Michael to call on Sabine. Both control their real emotions so that Henry has no idea of their true relations. Believing that it means Sabine's happiness, Michael consents to a divorce. Thus each makes a personal sacrifice believing it is for the other's happiness.

When Henry takes Sabine to his mother's home, which is near Aranstoun castle, and entertains in her honor, Michael attends the reception. When he tells her how he searched months for her, her emotions give way and Michael clasps her in a fierce embrace. But her word has been given to Henry and they must continue the sacrifice.

Michael quietly leaves the sobbing Sabine and sends Henry to her. Thinking it is Michael she cries out, "Michael, my husband!" At last Henry knows and refuses to accept their sacrifice. Thus Michael and Sabine continue together their short married life that had been interrupted for five years.

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